

## **Trinity Lutheran Church Historic District**

1345 Gratiot

Local		
State	✓	4/24/81
State Marker	✓	5/25/82
National	✓	2/10/83



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**



### **Historic overview:**

Following a dispute within St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Detroit's only congregation of that denomination, a group of former members of that congregation founded the St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, also known as Trinity Lutheran. In 1850, Reverend Gottlieb Schaller became their first pastor. A frame chapel formerly owned by Mariner's church was moved to a site on Larned between Rivard and Russell and became the congregation's first home. Two years later, a school was established, and by 1864 a brick school was built on Sherman Street. The growth of the congregation and of the city made it inevitable that other Lutheran churches were established, and a number of these are daughter congregations of Trinity, beginning with Immanuel Lutheran in 1865. A new brick church was built at Gratiot and Rivard in 1866.

In 1905 a new school and social hall was built. At about the same time, the growing Americanization of the congregation led to the addition of English language services, supplementing the previously exclusive German character of the worship and teaching. By 1920, the character of the congregation and neighborhood had reduced the need for the school, and Trinity and St. Peter's Lutheran combined their school effort.

When the church was considering the renovation of the 1866 church during the late 1920s, a member of the congregation, Mr. Charles Gauss, announced his desire to donate a new church building for the congregation. The old brick church was demolished, and the new church was dedicated on February 15, 1931. Since that time, Trinity has remained a symbol for Lutheranism in Detroit, serving the community at large from its near-downtown location.

